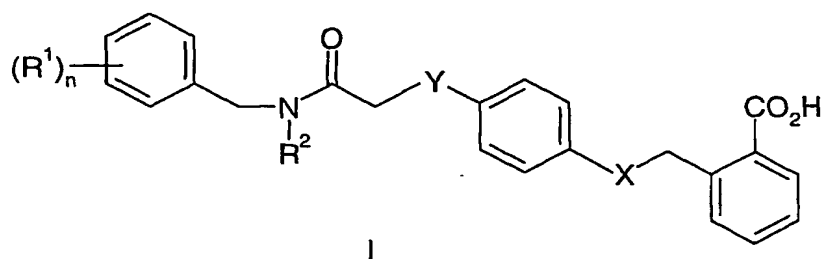


Claims

1. A compound of formula I



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2 and R¹ represents halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C₁₋₄alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R¹ may be the same or different;

R² represents a C₂₋₈alkyl group which is optionally interrupted by oxygen;

Y is absent or represents methylene; and

X is O or S;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which X is O.

3. A compound according to claim 1 in which X is S.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which Y is methylene.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 in which Y is absent.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which R¹ is halo, a C₁₋₄alkyl group or a C₁₋₄alkoxy group and n is 0, 1 or 2.

7. A compound according to any preceding claim in which R¹ is fluoro, methoxy, or isopropyl when n is 1 or 2.

8. A compound according to any preceding claim in which n is 0.

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9. A compound according to any preceding claim in which R² represents a C₅₋₇alkyl group.

10. A compound selected from:

- 2-[(4-{3-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 10 2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 15 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenyl)thio]methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[butyl(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 20 2-[(4-{3-[(3-ethoxypropyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid ;
- 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
- 25 2-[(4-{2-[ethyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]-methyl]benzoic acid;
- 2-[(3-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl]benzoic acid; and
- 2-[(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl]benzoic acid
- 30 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11. A compound according to claim 2 selected from:

2-[(4-{3-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[benzyl(hexyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 5 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[butyl(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)(heptyl)-amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic
 acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(3-ethoxypropyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]-
 10 benzoic acid ;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenoxy)methyl]benzoic acid;
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

12. A compound according to claim 3 selected from:

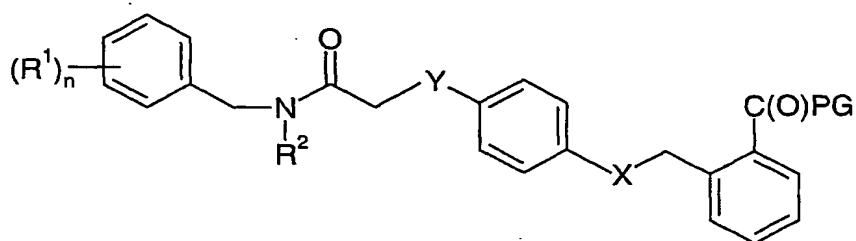
2-[(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic
 acid;
 2-[(4-{3-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic
 20 acid;
 2-([4-(2-{ethyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)phenyl]thio)-
 methyl}benzoic acid;
 2-[(3-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic
 acid; and
 25 2-[(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}phenyl)thio]methyl}benzoic acid
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any preceding
 claim in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

14. A method of treating or preventing insulin resistance comprising the administration of
 a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 to a mammal in need thereof.

15. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of insulin resistance.

16. A process to prepare a compound of formula I comprising reacting a compound of
5 formula II



in which R^1 , R^2 , X and Y are as previously defined and PG represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

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17. A compound of formula II as described in claim 16.

18. A combination treatment comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in combination with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders
15 associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis, hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.